

be brought to bear on the receiving of the report in September.

To what extent can you advise us as to the process that might be followed in order to expeditiously get to the conference but at the same time either the conferees be informed of the views of others or we have some mechanism by which to address the issue?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there are many issues—in fact, most issues that come before this body deal with monetary things, policy issues, which do not deal with the lives of our men and women in uniform. This issue does. I cannot speak for my Republican counterpart, Senator MCCONNELL, but I can say without any question that I believe he and I are arm-locked in the recognition of how serious this is and how we have to do the very best the Senate can do. We are going to try to do that.

This is a time when we have to work on a nonpartisan basis—not bipartisan but a nonpartisan basis—to get a matter to the House of Representatives so we can do a conference. At this stage, I have to say to my friend from Virginia, who is so knowledgeable about things military, we don't know how we are going to do that yet. That is a fair statement. Everything is on the table. But how we take things off the table and put certain things back on the table, I don't know at this stage. I don't think my friend from Kentucky does, either, but we are open for suggestions and comments. It is not an easy situation. The House of Representatives is a different body than we are. The majority party there can do what they want to do. We cannot do that. This is the Senate, which is divided, as we speak, 50 to 49. So we have to work together.

I say to my friend that I understand his involvement in this. He has worked

over the years very well with the Democrats. I look forward to that continuing during the supplemental appropriations bill. Speaking for me, I don't know how we are going to get there, but we are going to try. We have no choice. Failure is not an option.

Mr. WARNER. I thank the majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, nobody has done more for his country, for the defense of this country, and for the Armed Forces of this country than the distinguished Senator from Virginia. We thank him for his ongoing advice about how to deal with this most difficult problem.

The majority leader and I are in exactly the same place. I believe the Senator from Virginia is as well. It is our great desire to get to conference and get a bill signed before Memorial Day. Exactly as the majority leader indicated, how we get from here to there is a matter under serious discussion between the two of us and with our members. So we will be working to get the job completed at the earliest possible opportunity.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I only add that I have been as critical of the President as anybody in the Senate. But I have to say that, in the last week or two, his spokesperson, his Chief of Staff, speaking with the authority of the President, has been available to Senator MCCONNELL and me anytime I have asked. I appreciate that. If we are going to get this done, the President has to be part of the solution.

#### ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MAY 14, 2007

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand

adjourned until 2 p.m., Monday, May 14; that on Monday, following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that there then be a period for the transaction of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled by the two leaders or their designees; that at 3 p.m., the Senate begin consideration of H.R. 1495, as provided for under a previous order.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDER FOR RECORD TO REMAIN OPEN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the RECORD remain open today until 2 p.m. for the introduction of legislation, submission of statements, and adding cosponsors.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 2 P.M., MONDAY, MAY 14, 2007

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding there is no further business to come before the Senate today. That being the case, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:08 p.m., adjourned until Monday, May 14, 2007, at 2 p.m.